

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated January 11, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following remarks in conjunction with filing a RCE. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5 and 7-12 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended, and new Claims 19-21 have been added to further define the invention, leaving Claims 1-6, 7-12, and 19-21 for consideration upon the entry of the amendments. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

In the final Office Action, Claims 1, 5, and 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Junker et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3, 422,178 (hereinafter "Junker") in view of either Toyooka et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,254,074 (hereinafter "Toyooka") or Japanese patent document 10-217264 (hereinafter "Japan '264").

Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, "upper and lower horizontal heating plates receiving the upper and lower carrier films into a gap therebetween, each including temperature controlling means and heating means for heating upper and lower surfaces of the raw material compound by a same heat transmission manner to harden the raw material compound, a temperature of the upper and lower horizontal heating plates being same at their entire section." Page 17, lines 14-19 of the specification discuss the feature of Claim 1.

In the Office Action dated July 27, 2005, the Examiner has stated that the platens (50) teach the upper and lower heating plates. Junker however, teaches that platens (50) furnish zones of heating and cooling. Therefore, the platens (50) as disclosed in Junker are not the upper and lower horizontal heating plates through which a temperature is the same.

The Examiner however, has stated on the final Office Action dated January 11, 2006 that Junker explicitly discloses that the casting region may be maintained at a uniform temperature. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. As shown in figure 2 of Junker, the casting region (18) is a part of the platens (50). Therefore, even if the casting region may be maintained at a uniform temperature, the entire of the platens (50) have

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different temperature regions because the platens (50) are for furnishing zones of heating and cooling, as disclosed in Col. 4, lines 7-9 of Junker. Accordingly, Junker fails to teach or suggest the element "a temperature of the upper and lower horizontal heating plates being same at their entire section", as recited in Claim 1.

Toyooka does not cure the deficiency of Junker because it fails to teach or suggest the element "a temperature of the upper and lower horizontal heating plates being same at their entire section", as recited in Claim 1.

In Japan '264, each of the chambers 7, 8, 9, and 10 has a heating area and a cooling area. Therefore, Japan '264 also fails to teach or suggest the element "a temperature of the upper and lower horizontal heating plates being same at their entire section", as recited in Claim 1.

Because none of Junker, Toyooka, and Japan '264 teaches or suggest the element "a temperature of the upper and lower horizontal heating plates being same at their entire section", as recited in Claim 1, Junker in view of either Toyooka or Japan '265 do not render Claim 1 obvious. Claims 5 and 7-12 depend from Claim 1, and thus are believed to be allowable due to their dependency on Claim 1.

Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Junker in view of either Toyooka et al. or Japan '264, and further in view of Yukawa et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,658,508 (hereinafter "Yukawa"). Yukawa fails to teach or suggest "a temperature of the upper and lower horizontal heating plates being same at their entire section", as recited in Claim 1, from which Claims 2-4 depend. Therefore, Junker in view of either Toyooka or Japan '264, and further in view of Yukawa does not render Claim 1 obvious, because they fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 2-4 are believed to be allowable due to their dependency on Claim 1.

New Claim 19 recites "The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the gap between the upper and lower horizontal heating plates is constant in a horizontal direction". Figure 3 of the Application discusses the features

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of Claim 19. In contrary, the Examples 1-7 of Junker teach that the gaps between the platens are different from each other. Therefore, Junker does not teach or suggest the element "the gap between the upper and lower horizontal heating plates is constant in a horizontal direction", as recited in Claim 19, as well as the element "a temperature of the upper and lower horizontal heating plates being same at their entire section", as recited in Claim 1.

None of Toyooka, Japan '265, and Yukawa teaches or suggest the element "the gap between the upper and lower horizontal heating plates is constant in a horizontal direction", as recited in Claim 19. Therefore, Junker, Toyooka, Japan '265, and Yukawa, alone or in combination, does not render Claim 19 obvious.

New Claim 20 recites "The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the upper and lower carrier films has a same thickness and is made of a same polymeric material". Page 9, lines 22-24 of the specification discuss the features of Claim 20. Because the upper and lower carrier films have the same thickness and are made of the same polymeric material, the apparatus according to Claim 20 can prevent the artificial marble from being distorted.

As indicated by the Examiner on the page 6 of the Office Action dated July 27, 2005, Junker does not disclose upper and lower carrier films. Neither Toyooka nor Japan '264 teaches or suggests the element "each of the upper and lower carrier films has a same thickness and is made of a same polymeric material", as recited in Claim 20. Yukawa is also silent in the element "each of the upper and lower carrier films has a same thickness and is made of a same polymeric material", as recited in Claim 20. Therefore, Junker, Toyooka, Japan '264, and Yukawa, alone or in combination, do not render Claim 20 obvious because they fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of Claim 20, as well as all of the elements of Claim 1.

New Claim 21 recites "The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the apparatus continuously produces an acrylic artificial marble plate." Support for Claim 21 can be found in the entire specification. Claim 21

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depends from Claim 1, and thus is believed to be allowable due to its dependency on Claim 1, which is believed to be patentable.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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